



Department of Justice

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THREE INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICERS ACCUSED OF USING THEIR POSITIONS TO TRAFFIC IN MARIJUANA

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and Michael S. Welch, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Indianapolis announced that ROBERT B. LONG, 34, JASON P. EDWARDS, 37, and JAMES DAVIS, 33, all of Indianapolis, Indiana, along with KABEC HIGGINS, 31, were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 50 kilograms of marijuana. LONG, EDWARDS and DAVIS were also indicted for possession and attempted possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense. All four were arrested without incident late yesterday afternoon. This case was the result of a four-month investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance and support of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Indiana State Police.

Robert B. LONG, Jason P. EDWARDS, and James DAVIS are all members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. KABEC HIGGINS is a civilian acquaintance and operator of a local business, Ear Candy Muzik, who allegedly distributed marijuana for the three officers. The indictment alleges that the three police officers used their official positions to divert marijuana and cash proceeds of marijuana trafficking to their own use, at times using fictitious search warrants to gain access to private property and at other times just breaking in.

The indictment alleges that on March 19, 2008, LONG and DAVIS unlawfully seized \$20,000 from an individual whom they believed to be transporting the proceeds of marijuana distribution.

The indictment further alleges that on April 25, 2008, LONG, in his capacity as a police officer, retrieved a Federal Express parcel containing a suspected 12 to 13 pounds of marijuana

from the Fed-Ex hub at the Indianapolis International Airport. LONG then took the parcel to the home of EDWARDS, where about 8 pounds of marijuana from the parcel were removed and stored in EDWARDS' freezer. The marijuana was allegedly distributed to HIGGINS for \$4,000. LONG purportedly turned in more than 4 pounds of marijuana to the IMPD property room.

The indictment also charges that on May 13, 2008, LONG received a telephone call from a law enforcement officer in Arizona, alerting him that a 50 pound United Parcel Service parcel suspected of carrying controlled substances was headed for Indianapolis. LONG allegedly retrieved the parcel, distributed some of the marijuana to HIGGINS, and turned in about 20 pounds of marijuana to the IMPD property room.

The indictment further alleges that on May 27, 2008, EDWARDS contacted LONG to advise that EDWARDS had information about where a quantity of marijuana was stored. On May 30, 2008, LONG and DAVIS entered the apartment where they believed the marijuana to be located, but found nothing. The two officers used a key provided by apartment management. Apartment management supplied the key because LONG prepared and displayed a fraudulent search warrant.

The indictment finally alleges that on June 4, 2008, LONG, EDWARDS and DAVIS went to a vacant house on Kenwood Avenue where LONG had purportedly been told that up to 300 pounds of marijuana and \$50,000 cash had been stored by marijuana traffickers. DAVIS broke into the house and notified EDWARDS that he had found it. Soon thereafter, EDWARDS and LONG entered the house as well. They removed about 5 pounds of marijuana and \$18,300 cash. DAVIS wiped the doorknob with his gloves as the three left. LONG later distributed the 5 pounds of marijuana to another person.

"This is a sad day for law enforcement," said U.S. Attorney Timothy M. Morrison, "as we announce the indictment of three of our own, three Indianapolis Metropolitan Police officers, on marijuana trafficking charges. Not only did these men violate drug laws, but they reduced the reservoir of trust between the public and the police--committing acts in uniform, using police vehicles, displaying bogus search warrants, breaking into private property, and diverting seized drugs and cash to their personal benefit."

"The FBI, along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to pursue those officers who choose to break the law and betray the trust of our citizens they swore to serve and protect," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Michael S. Welch.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorneys Josh Minkler and Joe H. Vaughn, who are prosecuting the case for the government, the conspiracy count, in which all defendants are charged, carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, \$1 million dollar fine, and a period of supervised release not less than 3 years. Each count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine and not less than 2 years supervised release. LONG is charged in four such counts, EDWARDS in three

and DAVIS in two. Each count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime carries a consecutive term of not less than 5 years, not less than 2 years supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. LONG is charged in three such counts, DAVIS in two and EDWARDS in one. If there is more than one conviction on the charges alleging possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug offense, each subsequent conviction carries a 25 year consecutive prison term.

An initial hearing for all four defendants is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. today before a United States Magistrate Judge sitting in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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